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ITALY'S GIFT TO THE UNITED STATES

The Evils of Mythical Black Hands and Camorras Overbalanced by the Thousands of Industrious Farmers Coming Yearly to America—Successful Plans to Get Them on the Land.

ALICE BENNETT.
(Exclusive Service The Survey Press Bureau)

In an interesting paper read recently by W. D. Howells before the Society for Italian Immigrants he stated that there were living at present more than 500,000 Italians in Greater New York and drew a picture of the potential genius which might be lying dormant in that army of tenement dwellers—suggesting a revival of those arts and crafts which have flourished to such perfection for centuries in Italy. We mentally applauded Mr. Howells' conclusion that they should be distributed through country districts where they are bound to become an important factor in our national progress.

Here we will deal only with the farmer or contadino. The first to cross off the list will be the gentry black hand, notorious as he is as far removed from our gentle contadino as the wolf is from the lamb. Here the Italian government assists by providing every subject leaving this country with a passport which answers also as a certificate for good or bad character. Every honest Italian contadino can only find success for his peculiar talents in the crowded conditions incident to town life.

He is problem therefore for the police commissioners and courts to wrestle with. The consensus of opinion gathered from the largest employers of Italian farm labor throughout the United States is that barring the Chinese he ranks all other nationalities coming to this country as the most true of horticultural and intensive farming. Another reason lies with certain national idiosyncrasies peculiar to the Italian. Owing to lack of information in Italy pointing explicitly to where opportunity awaits the efficient farmer, the contadino comes to friends in one of the overgrown cities, and with only five or ten dollars capital, he must take the first job which offers; and thus the man who would be invaluable as a farmer becomes a parasite and menace to the city dwellers. His health suffers from the overcrowding, lack of outdoor life, and change of diet; and the result is that the Italian coming here are contadini who would be followed which would deflect them to the land.

Another reason why previous attempts to colonize them have failed is that men who had been trained to trades were sent to the country, and others who had all their lives lived on a farm remained in town. Neither have precautions been taken against the Italian's patriotism has its geographical limitations. With him patria means Province. We must remember that Italy is a matter of too recent date to have taken deep root with her peasant class. And while they are most catholic in their attitude towards the world in general, for an Italian belonging to another Province they evince an antipathy amounting almost to aversion. Time will doubtless break these barriers down, but until it does this antagonism must be recognized in any plan to colonize them, and by following the simple rule of not mixing the Provinces, the promoter secures a spirit of loyalty, and good team work.

About fifteen years ago Christino Saragosa, a Sicilian, drifted to Fredonia, Chautauque county, New York, as a day laborer. He applied at the cannery factory for work for himself and a friend from Buffalo. They were accepted but owing to a prejudice against Italians which then prevailed in Fredonia, they were unable to secure a house within two miles of the factory. Undaunted they moved in and by the end of a year had made themselves so well liked that the numerous Sicilian families which followed found no difficulty in securing necessary housing. The factory attracted them only as a means to an end. What really drew them was the outlying land suited to grape culture. All that they could save from their daily wage was invested in land and planted out to vineyards. There are now 1,200 Italians in Fredonia, many of them own large vineyards. Nearly all of them have cottages with gardens attached. Their places are well kept, and they have raised the standard of farming in that vicinity—Americans have to hustle to keep up with them. Land which sold ten years ago for \$20 and \$25 per acre cannot now be bought for less than \$250 per acre. There are 300 Italian children in the Normal College and schools—10 in the Normal College and

conditions in the United States for years that there should be a training school where Italians could be taught the use of machinery and care of live stock. There should be associated with such schools a bureau of information which would be in co-operation with the authorities at Ellis Island. The office of this bureau to be (1) selection of immigrants adapted to agriculture; (2) to gather information of desirable locations available for the immigrant; (3) clearing house, and distributing station. Two classes should be received for training. Those of inferior intelligence, could take a two months' course to fit them as farm hands; more capable men a six months' course to prepare them to take charge of large farms, estates and colonization schemes. This school should become self-supporting at the end of three years. There should be a night school where the immigrant would be taught rudiments of English, Civics and Recreation should be an important feature. This bureau should also supply information to employers advising how to handle the Italian in a manner to gain the best results. The Italian farm hand is bound to become popular with the farmer's wife as he relieves her of all the drudgery she has been used to associate with the "hired man." for he prefers to cook his own food, to his own way, an arrangement pleasing to all concerned. His diet is largely spaghetti, fruit and vegetables. Harking back once more to Mr. Howells' happy suggestion, why could there not be one corner reserved in such a training school sacred to some one of the old arts and crafts, say those gorgeous brocades worn by the Florentine beauties at Lorenzo de Medici's Court, or the Sicilian embroidery now being taught by Miss Amori in New York, or Venetian glass with its lovely Byzantine forms, etc., etc. Surely such an experiment would be well worth while in this new crude world of ours.

PUBLIC OPINION

Editor Farmer:—

Sir—I wish, through your valuable paper, to call the attention of Director Biltz and his five inspectors to the holes in the walk at the East Washington avenue bridge, on the north side and the west side of the bridge. These holes have been there all winter, and now that we have five inspectors let us hope that they will be fixed. This is my wish and that of hundreds of others that have to jump over them every day.

Yours Respectfully,

H. O. MILLS.

Castro Plans Suit Against French Government

Paris, May 3.—Cipriano Castro, ex-President of Venezuela, is reported to be consulting with lawyers here with a view to bringing a damage suit against the French government for his recent expulsion from Martinique.

THAT \$330,000 PORTRAIT COMING TO AMERICA

London, May 3.—Though Messrs. P. & D. Colnaghi declare that they purchased for themselves and not for an American client, Hans Holbein's famous portrait of Christina of Denmark, for which they paid \$330,000, to the Duke of Norfolk, there is little doubt that if the masterpiece is not acquired for the National Gallery it will find its way to the United States.

JEROME HISSED AND HOOTED IN LAUNCHING HIS CAMPAIGN

New York, May 3.—District Attorney Jerome personally launched a campaign for his re-nomination last night at Cooper Union under rather unfavorable auspices. When he took the platform, appearing unexpectedly, he was hissed and hooted, and it was fully five minutes before the big crowd that packed the hall would listen to him.

If you want to feel well, look well and be well, take Foley's Kidney Remedy. It tones up the kidneys and builds up the blood and restores health and strength. Pleasant to take and contains no harmful drugs. Why not commence to-day? F. B. Brill, local agent. 135

SEC. MASTERMAN'S DISTINCTION ON NEW BRITISH BUDGET

London, May 3.—Charles Masterman, Parliamentary Secretary of the Local Government Board, denies the published story that in a speech last Friday he assailed the budget was a triumph for socialism.

FRANCE IN THE GRIP OF DRAINING COLD WAVE

Paris, May 3.—Northeastern France is in the grip of an unprecedented cold wave. There have been snowfalls at several places, and it is feared that the fruit crops and vineyards have been seriously damaged.

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Nemo Week for 1909 begins on Monday, May 3.

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The Nemo "New American Shape" Corsets are recognized in every fashion-centre of Europe and America as producing the correct contour for the fashions of 1909.

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A Black Lustre Petticoat for 98 cts

The sensible woman who sees these skirts will be pleased, for they are fine value. There are three styles with plain or fancy flounces, and these very same models used to sell for \$1.25. Look at them.

Mixed Suitings, 25 cts a yard

They are just half price. Good substantial stripes, checks, and plaids, in colors, medium gray, tan, blue, and green. Only four hundred yards and they will not last very long. They look very much better than the low price would indicate. Original price 50 cts. Colored Dress Goods Section.

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LINCOLN'S STORY.

It Contained a Lesson For the Man With a Grievance.

An old farmer once called at the White House and complained that the Union soldiers in passing his farm had helped themselves not only to hay, but to his horse, and he hoped the president would urge the proper officer to consider his claim immediately.

"Why, my dear sir," replied Mr. Lincoln blandly, "I couldn't think of such a thing. If I consider individual cases I should find work enough for twenty presidents."

The caller urged his needs persistently, and Mr. Lincoln declined good naturedly.

"But," said the persevering sufferer, "couldn't you just give me a line to Colonel—about it—just one line?"

"Ha, ha, ha!" responded the president, crossing his legs. "That reminds me of old Jack Chase out in Illinois."

"You see, Jack—I knew him like a brother—used to be a lumberman on the Illinois river, and he was steady and sober and the best craftsman on the stream. It was quite a trick to take the logs over the rapids, but he was skillful with a raft and always kept her straight in the channel. Finally a steamer was put on, and Jack—he's dead now, poor fellow—was made captain of it. He always used to take the wheel going through the rapids. One day when the boat was plunging and wallowing along the boiling current and Jack's utmost vigilance was being exercised to keep it in the narrow channel a boy pulled his coattail and hailed him with:

"Say, Mr. Captain, I wish you would just stop your boat a minute! I've lost my apple overboard!"

"Think that story over, my friend, and see if you can find any lesson in it."

A LOVER OF PEACE.

He Had Decided Opinions on the Way to Abolish War.

"Men talk sincerely," once said W. T. Stead, the great apostle of peace, "about loving one another, about the universal brotherhood of man, and in the same breath they assert that it is right to burn and maim and kill in

war. They are not so logical as a young colored recruit who served in the Philippines. This young man at the end of his initial engagement was hauled before his captain.

"So you ran at the first fire, did you?" said the captain scornfully.

"Yes, sah, an I'd 'n' run sooner, sah, if I'd knowed it wuz comin'."

"Have you no regard for your reputation, Calhoun?"

"Mah reputation hain't nuffin to me, sah, 'longside o' mah life."

The captain smiled and twirled his mustache. Here was an intelligent young man. He'd talk him over to the right point of view.

"Even if you should lose your life, Calhoun," he said, "you'd have the satisfaction of knowing that you had died for your country."

"Wot satisfaction could dat be to me, sah, when de power o' feelin' it wuz gone?"

"Then patriotism means nothing to you?"

"Nfin, sah. I wouldn't put mah life in de scales agin any government dat eber existed, for no government could replace de loss o' me."

"Calhoun, if all soldiers were like you the world's governments would all go to pieces."

"On de contrary, sah, dey'd last forever, for, if all soldiers wuz like me, den dere couldn't neber be no fightin'!"

The Last Straw.

"Every time I give a party," cried the discouraged hostess, "I vow I'll never give another, but I've decided this time. No more for me. It's the red checked man. I don't mind their taking up the rugs and dancing until after midnight and getting dispossessed notices served on me the next morning, or leaving cigarette ashes all over the place for me to clean up, or scattering the Welsh rabbit from one end of the lat to the other, but when the red checked man sits on my piano keys when he gives an imitation of something or somebody and I have to pay \$4 to have my piano tuned the next day that'll be about all!"—Chicago Inter Ocean.

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